(b) The estimated cost of the project based on 1997-98 survey report is Rs. 170.35 crores.

(c) Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the project, the work could not be considered for sanction.

EMU train between Howrah and Sealdah

1403. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain EMU Trains starting and terminating from/to Howrah and Sealdah stations under the Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway remain suspended;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the tentative time schedule for restoring them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) EMU services were cancelled on Howrah and Sealdah divisions due to breaches of Tracks, unprecedented rains and water logging. These services have been gradually restored by 27.10.2000. On Kharagpur division of South Eastern Railway, 4 pairs of UP and Down Locals scheduled to run early in the morning and late in the night remain cancelled in consultation with Suburban Passenger Association for upgrading the infrastructure. The services will be restored as quickly as possible.

Extension of Railway Projects in West Bengal

1404. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the status and the amount spent so far in the current year in the extension of the ongoing projects for guage conversion of Radhikapur-Barsoi section; extension of circular railway network in Kolkata upto Dum Dum Airport; connection of the converted Bankura-Damodar line from Shyamsundarnagar Chechai; and electrification of circular railway from Tala to Majherhat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

Gauge conversion of Radhikapur-Barsoi section

Gauge conversion work of Katihar-Jogbani was approved in the supplementary budget of 1997-98. In the budget of 2000-2001, gauge conversion of Katihar-Barsoi and Barsoi-Radhikapur has also been included

in this work as material modification. Action for obtaining CCEA clearance for the project has been initiated. On receipt of clearance from CCEA, work will be taken up immediately.

Extension of Circular Railway Network in Kolkata upto Dum Dum Airport

The alignment covering an approx. distance of 4 km. passes through an ordnance factory and through Dum Dum/Jessop/Airport Authority of India land. Issue of transfer of land is under negotiation with these organisations. Preliminary works of survey has been completed and detailed design of structure is in progress. Tenders for the ramp portion has been finalised and work is expected to start shortly. Tenders for substructure have been opened and are under finalisation. Expenditure figures will be known on closure of accounts at the end of the financial year.

Connection of Gauge Conversion of Bankura-Damodar Line from Shyamsundarnagar to Chechai

Work of gauge conversion of Bankura-Damodar line has been taken up and the contracts have been awarded. An amount of Rs. 40 crores have been provided in the budget for the current year. For the connection from this line to Chechai, Traffic-cum-Engineering Survey has been completed and the material modification estimate is under finalisation.

Electrification of Circular Railway from Tala to Majherhat

The contracts for electrification from Tala to Princepghat have been awarded and foundation work for electric masts is in progress. Extension for circular railway from Princepghat to Majherhat has been sanctioned and for this stretch civil construction work has already been taken in hand.

Expenditure will be known on closure of accounts at the end of the financial year. A sum of Rs. 45 crores have been provided for all the works on circular railway in the budget of the current financial year.

Networking system for computerised Rail reservation

†1405. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether software for networking system is available at all those places

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.